

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07  
NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SSC-01 FSI-03 /095 W  
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R 170908Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4796  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC HONOLULU  
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 0710

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JA  
SUBJECT: JAPAN'S NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, IICHIRO HATOYAMA

REF: TOKYO 18859 (DEC 1976)

SUMMARY. APPOINTMENT OF A FIRST-TERM UPPER HOUSE DIET  
MEMBER IICHIRO HATOYAMA AS FONMIN IN FUKUDA CABINET  
CAME AS SURPRISE TO MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN TOKYO.  
PRODUCT OF FINANCE MINISTRY ELITE AND PRIMARILY SPECIALIST  
IN BUDGETARY MATTERS, HATOYAMA IS WELL-VERSED IN ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS IN GENERAL. AS VICE MINISTER AT MOF, HE DEMON-  
STRATED SKILL IN BOTH MANAGEMENT AND NEGOTIATION. HE IS  
GENERALLY REGARDED AS INTELLIGENT AND HARD-WORKING.  
DURING HIS FIRST DAYS AT FONOFF, HATOYAMA HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS  
IN PUBLIC COMMENTS, REFLECTING HIS RELATIVE INEXPERIENCE  
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IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. A HARMONIZER RATHER THAN INNOVATOR,  
HE IS EXPECTED TO RELY HEAVILY AS FONMIN ON PRIMIN FUKUDA  
AND BUREAUCRACY FOR DIRECTION. MODEST AND UNASSUMING IN  
MANNER, HE CONVEYS TO SOME IMPRESSION OF WEAKNESS.  
HATOYAMA IS SON OF FORMER PRIMIN AND MEMBER IN EXCEP-  
TIONALLY GOOD STANDING OF JAPAN'S POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL  
ESTABLISHMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. HATOYAMA'S CAREER. HATOYAMA IS MOST FREQUENTLY DESCRIBED AS BRIGHT AND ARD-WORKING, QUALITIES READILY REFLECTED IN HIS CAREER THUS FAR. UPON HIS GRADUATION FIRST IN CLASS FROM PRESTIGIOUS TOKYO UNIVERSITY LAW FACULTY IN 1941, HE ENTERED ELITE OF JAPAN'S CIVIL SERVICE AT FINANCE MINISTRY, WHERE, WITH EXCEPTION OF BRIEF ASSIGNMENTS TO MITI AND ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY, HE REMAINED FOR NEXT THIRTY-ONE YEARS. BULK OF HATOYAMA'S CAREER AT MOF CENTERED ON BUDGETARY AND ACCOUNTING MATTERS, BUT HE ALSO BECAME WELL VERSED IN TRADE AND MONETARY AFFAIRS. EVENTUALLY RISING TO BECOME ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER IN 1971, HATOYAMA WAS INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN ANNUAL INTER-MINISTERIAL JOCKEYING FOR BUDGET ALLOCATIONS. AN ABLE NEGOTIATOR, HE PERFORMED UNENVIABLE TASK OF CUTTING OTHER MINISTRIES' BUDGETS WITH MINIMUM OF FRICTION AND WITHOUT AROUSING ANIMOSITY. HATOYAMA WAS APPARENTLY BUREAUCRATIC MANAGER OF CONSIDERABLE SKILL IN BEST JAPANESE FASHION, ABLE TO DETERMINE ACCURATELY LIMITS OF EXISTING CONSENSUS AND THEN OPERATE EFFECTIVELY WITHIN THOSE MARGINS.

2. FOLLOWING RETIREMENT FROM CIVIL SERVICE, HATOYAMA WAS ELECTED TO DIET UPPER HOUSE IN 1974 ON LDP TICKET FROM NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY. LAST FALL HE WAS APPOINTED LDP FINANCE BUREAU DIRECTOR. ALTHOUGH NOT FORMALLY IDENTIFIED WITH ANY LDP FACTION, HE ENJOYS VERY GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH PRIMIN FUKUDA -- ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE OF MOF'S ELITE. HE ALSO HAS QUITE CLOSE

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RELATIONS WITH FORMER PRIMIN TANAKA.

3. HATOYAMA AS FOREIGN MINISTER. HATOYAMA READILY ADMITS THAT HE COMES TO NEW POST AS "A MERE LAYMAN" IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE IS, HOWEVER, VORACIOUS READER AND QUICK STUDENT; HE HAS ALREADY ASTOUNDED SUBORDINATES WITH HIS ABILITY TO COMPREHEND READILY COMPLEXITIES OF ARCAINE ECONOMIC TOPICS. DURING HIS BRIEFINGS BY FONOFF OFFICIALS, HATOYAMA HAS BEEN NON-COMMITTAL -- IN WORDS OF ONE PARTICIPANT, HE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT POKER-FACE OF "A BUDGET EXAMINER."

4. THUS FAR IN HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS, HATOYAMA HAS BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO BREAK ANY NEW OR DANGEROUS POLITICAL GROUND. SPEAKING WITH APPARENTLY GREATER CONFIDENCE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, HE HAS NOTED IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING JAPAN'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER WESTERN NATIONS, SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTING JAPAN TAKE REFLATIONARY MEASURES AND EXPAND DOMESTIC DEMAND TO REDUCE ITS TRADE SURPLUS.

THOUGH FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE IN PHILOSOPHY, HATOYAMA HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN GREATER COOPERATION WITH LDC'S -- HIS DESIRE TO BE FORTHCOMING AND HELPFUL IN THIS FIELD WILL LIKELY BE BALANCED BY PERCEIVED NEED TO ACT WITH FISCAL RESTRAINT.

5. CHOICE OF HATOYAMA AS FONMIN SURPRISED SOME IN FONOFF. THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT HATOYAMA WAS NOT FUKUDA'S FIRST CHOICE, BUT RATHER EMERGED AS COMPROMISE CANDIDATE ACCEPTABLE TO OTHER LDP LEADERS. APPOINTMENT WAS READ BY MANY AS SIGN THAT PRIMIN FUKUDA WOULD EXERCISE GREATER PERSONAL CONTROL OF FOREIGN POLICY. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, FUKUDA WAS ALSO SEEN AS DELIBERATELY RAISING HATOYAMA TO RANKS OF FUTURE PRIME MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES. EVIDENT INTENTION OF CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA TO TAKE PROMINENT HAND IN FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS HAS SHARPENED SPECULATION THAT HATOYAMA WILL BE PLIABLE MANAGER, NOT INNOVATOR OR HIGH-CONFIDENTIAL

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PROFILE DEFENDER WITHIN GOJ OF DIPLOMATIC INTERESTS. (BIO ON SONODA WILL FOLLOW.) HOPE HAS BEEN VOICED WITHIN BUREAUCRACY THAT HATOYAMA'S APPOINTMENT WOULD HELP IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN FONOFF AND MOF IN STRUGGLE FOR GREATER BUDGET ALLOCATIONS. THERE IS EXPECTATION THAT HATOYAMA WILL BE "QUIET" FONMIN AND, FOLLOWING NORMAL JAPANESE PATTERN, NOT INTRUDE ON NORMAL OPERATIONS ON MINISTRY.

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6. HATOYAMA THE MAN. HATOYAMA, 58, IS QUIET AND MODEST IN MANNER. WHILE AT MOF, HIS RELAXED AND UNASSUMING PERSONALITY WON HIM NICKNAMES "HATO-CHAN" AND "POPO-CHAN" -- AFFECTIONATE WORD PLAY ON FAMILY NAME WHICH ROUGHLY TRANSLATE AS "LITTLE PIGEON." THERE IS CUTTING EDGE, HOWEVER, TO THESE NICKNAMES. LESS CHARITABLE DESCRIPTIONS OF HATOYAMA CIRCULATING AMONG JAPANESE PRESS CORPS INCLUDE "COLORLESS" AND "LACKING VITALITY." THERE IS IMPRESSION AMONG SOME JAPANESE OBSERVERS, PERHAPS UNJUSTIFIED, THAT HAVING NEVER EXPERIENCED ADVERSITY, "POPO-CHAN" WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENTLY TOUGH ENOUGH TO HOLD HIS OWN IN POLITICAL ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE OF HOSTILE DIET INTERPELLATIONS OR INTRACABINET SQUABBLES.

7. HATOYAMA REPORTEDLY SPEAKS "ADEQUATE" ENGLISH, BUT IT IS LIKELY HE WILL USE INTERPRETER AT FORMAL MEETINGS. AN INTERPRETER FROM PAST MEETINGS IN WHICH HATOYAMA PARTICIPATED NOTES THAT HE IS MASTER OF NON-VERBAL  
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COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER JAPANESE, PACKING CONSIDERABLE MEANING INTO SIMPLE NOD.

8. THE HATOYAMA FAMILY. IN "ADAMS' CHRONICLE" FASHION, SAGA OF HATOYAMA FAMILY REFLECTS HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN JAPAN. IN 1875 NEW FONMIN'S GRANDFATHER, KAZUO HATOYAMA, TRAVELLED TO US AT AGE OF 19 TO STUDY AT COLUMBIA AND YALE. ON HIS RETURN TO JAPAN, KAZUO EVENTUALLY BECAME SPEAKER OF DIET LOWER HOUSE, VICE FONMIN, AND PRESIDENT OF WASEDA UNIVERSITY. HIS WIFE, HARUKO, WAS ONE OF JAPAN'S FIRST FEMINISTS. KAZUO'S SON ICHIRO HATOYAMA, NEW FONMIN'S FATHER, WAS VETERAN DIET MEMBER AND INSTRUMENTAL INFORMATION OF LDP IN POSTWAR PERIOD. SLATED TO BECOME PRIMIN IN 1946, ICHIRO WAS POLITICALLY PURGED BY SCAP AND POST WENT TO SHIGERU YOSHIDA. YOSHIDA'S RELUCTANCE TO GIVE UP PRIME MINISTERSHIP AFTER HATOYAMA'S REHABILITATION SPARKED FEUD WHICH DOMINATED JAPANESE POLITICS OF THAT PERIOD. ICHIRO FINALLY BECAME PRIMIN IN 1954. DESPITE INTENSE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC OPPOSITION, PRIMIN HATOYAMA SUCCEEDED IN RESTORING RELATIONS WITH USSR THROUGH DEVICE OF EXCHANGING MEMORANDA. HE LEFT OFFICE IN LATE 1956. PRESENT FONMIN'S SON KUNIO, 28, WAS ELECTED TO DIET LOWER HOUSE LAST DECEMBER AS

INDEPENDENT AND THUS FAR, ALTHOUGH SUBJECTED TO CONSIDERABLE  
POLITICAL PRESSURE, HAS REFUSED TO JOIN LDP RANKS. OTHER  
SON, YUKIO, IS PRESENTLY STUDYING AT STANFORD GRADUATE  
SCHOOL.

9. WITH THIS BACKGROUND, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO  
EXAGGERATE EXTENT OF FONMIN HATOYAMA'S CONTACTS THROUGH-  
OUT UPPER LEVELS OF JAPANESE SOCIETY. AS SIMPLE EXAMPLE,  
HIS WIFE YASUKA IS DAUGHTER OF LATE BUSINESS TYCOON  
SHOJIRO ISHIBASHI, FOUNDER OF BRIDGESTONE TIRE  
COMPANY. HIS BROTHERS-IN-LAW INCLUDE  
FORMER EXIM BANK  
PRESIDENT, HEAD OF SONY MAGNESIUM SCALE COMPANY, AND  
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CONDUCTOR OF TOKYO SYMPHONY. HIS DAUGHTER IS MARRIED  
TO SON OF DAI-ICHI BANK CHAIRMAN.  
HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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